that there was no reason for the fear that the disposal of forest trees for seigniorage value would tend to increase the number of forest cases. He therefore prayed that the forest trees within and without reserved forests might be permitted to be cut down on payment of the seigniorage value.

The Member also pointed out that the tariff rates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd class teak wood were Rs. 36, Rs. 28 and Rs. 24 per candy respectively; but that, when the timber was sold to big merchants or influential companies, the rates realised fell far short of the tariff rates. The average of the sales at the depots did not exceed Rs. 20 per candy. He therefore requested that teak might be issued to the public, especially to the subjects of the State for their own private use, at the following reduced rates, *viz.*, Rs. 24 for the 1st class, Rs. 20 for the 2nd class and Rs. 16 for the 3rd class, per candy.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

10. The necessity for the reduction of the tariff values of teak and other kinds of timber.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Karthigapalli taluk) complained about the steady enhancement of the tariff values of teak, blackwood and other kinds of timber since 1088, and said that the enhancement of the tariff rates had not brought in revenue to the Government to the extent of the export duty sacrificed. The enhancement of the tariff rates accentuated the difficulties of the people in buying timber and the abolition of the export duty on timber appreciably diminished the Government revenue. He also complained that, although the tariff rates had been put sufficiently high, the people were not freely given timber even at the tariff rates. The depot officers refused to give timber at tariff rates without the permission of the Divisional Forest Officer. If people applied to the latter, he would direct the applicants to bid at the public auctions. In the auction sales, the people outside the State had greater advantage over the natives of the country, inasmuch as the former had not to pay any export duty. What the local people invariably got was the inferior kind of timber, and even after they had purchased it in auction, they had to wait for the orders of the Conservator sometimes for months. That worked great hardship to the people of the State. Often times the Forest Department did not enforce the tariff rates in the case of people outside the State and sold large lots of timber at much below the tariff rates. The Member contended that such people from outside the State should pay not only the tariff rate, but also the original export duty on timber.

Another evil arising from the enhanced tariff rates for timber was, the Member pointed out, that, in all the depots of the State, there was a large surplus of undisposed of timber. In the Veyapuram depot, in 1087, *i. e.* before the tariff rates were increased, there were 133 logs left undisposed of, in 1088, 1586 logs, in 1089, 4925 logs, and in 1090, 12,051 logs. Those logs were subsequently disposed of at a loss to the Government. There would not have been such a large undisposed of stock in the depots, if the timber had been sold to the people of the State at reduced rates. He therefore prayed that the tariff rates for teak and blackwood be reduced, that all trees be ordered to be sold to applicants by the depot officers themselves without auction sales on recovery of tariff rates, that trees, as soon as they were felled, be arranged to be marked with their dimensions to prevent their being tampered with subsequently, and that the delay in putting applicants in possession of the timber they paid for be avoided in future. He also suggested that the export duty on timber, which had been abolished, should be revived.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

11. The hardships and inconveniences caused to the people by the Forest Regulation and the measures for remedying the same.

Mr. K. C. Govindan (Member, Nominated) said that the increase in the number of forest offences and in the percentage of convictions during 1089 as compared

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

with the figures for 1088 was due to the defective demarcation of the areas of the reserved forests. He complained against the rigid enforcement of the Forest Rules which forbade cultivation of forest areas. He added that the gross revenue of the Forest Department amounted only to a little over 12 lacs of rupees and was quite inadequate to the extent of the forest area. The revenue could be enhanced by greater attention being paid to the minor produce of the forests. He also said that the swamp areas within the forests, which were admirably suited for paddy cultivation, should be assigned to the people. That would increase the supply of paddy in the country and thereby promote the interests alike of the Government and the people.

The Member also suggested that a scientific survey of the forests of the State should be ordered to be made conjointly by the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agriculture and any other officers the Government might consider necessary.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's remarks will be referred to the Conservator of Forests for report.

12. The need for the relaxation of the stringency of the Forest Rules in respect of Cardamom cultivation.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetti (Member, Devikulam taluk) observed that cardamom cultivation was originally carried on by the adjoining British ryots, and that, during the past 100 years, the cultivation had declined and become difficult. The difficulty was accentuated by the recent enhancement of the acreage value on cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre, and also the enforcement of the payment of 5 years' assessment as penalty for occupation of cardamom lands by a mere executive order of the Superintendent of Devikulam. He also pointed out that the stringent enforcement of the Forest Rules did not permit the cardamom ryots to use fire-arms freely, to cut down the trees standing on cardamom lands and use the timber for their own private purposes, and to graze their cattle in the adjoining forests. He also referred to the fall in the demand for cardamom on account of the European war and the general indebtedness of the cardamom ryots. He therefore requested—

(1) that the *tharavila* on cardamom lands should be reduced and the system of levying arrears of assessment as penalty abolished ;

(2) that the Forest Rules should be relaxed so as to permit the free use of the forests adjoining cardamom lands for grazing purposes and also the free felling of the reserved trees on cardamom lands for the private use of the ryots concerned ;

(3) that the cardamom ryots be permitted generally to use fire-arms and to shoot such of the wild animals as were dangerous to cultivation ; and

(4) that the Government might afford all other facilities required for the successful cultivation of cardamom lands.

Dewan's reply.—The Superintendent of Devikulam and the Conservator of Forests will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

(3) Excise, Trade and Customs Revenue.

13. The necessity for appointing a Committee for the development of trade.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) said that the trade of the country was almost wholly in the hands of outsiders. The important raw products, *viz.*, copra, pepper, cocoanut oil, dried ginger and hides, were exported through foreign agencies and the finished products too were imported through the same agencies. To encourage local traders, the Member suggested the appointment of a Special Officer to instruct them on the condition of the different markets in the world, the time of demand for particular articles of trade in particular markets and the easiest means of transmission of the products concerned to the proper markets

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly